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# City putting last touches on Walnut Branch

**MORE:** Committees and staff looking at park signs, benches, and other details

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SEGUIN — Staff recommendations for signage, seating and other amenities in Walnut Springs Park were outlined Monday evening at a joint meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Walnut Branch Committee.

"We're at that really fun stage of this project where we're putting the final touches on it," said Mary Jo Filip, director of the city's Main Street Program who also works with the Walnut Branch Committee.

Filip narrated a PowerPoint presentation showing illustrations of signs, benches, trash receptacles and other items to be installed in the park which is nearing completion along Walnut Branch between Court and Nolte streets.

After her presentation, members of the two groups were invited to comment or ask questions about the recommendations.

Sam Flores, chairman of the Walnut Branch Committee, said he was concerned about the park's contractor not having been there recently.

"How come they haven't shown up?" Flores asked. "We've spent 10 years on this project, and I think it's time they finished it."

"We feel that they're on schedule," Filip said.

While the park is slated for completion in March, city officials expect the contractor's work to be completed by the end of February, Filip said. Plans call for holding a dedication ceremony at the park in May.

Flores also suggested planting more rose bushes in the Memorial Rose Garden that runs from Travis Street down to the bank of the creek. He said the city should make it "a real rose garden."

**PARK,** see page 3

## PARK

from page 1

Filip said the city had sought the advice of a rose expert from the San Antonio Botanical Center.

"It's not an ideal location to grow roses," Filip said. "It's a battle to keep them alive."

Another concern was voiced by Lynn Glenewinkel who is a member of both the parks board and the Walnut Branch Committee.

"Has there been any thought about putting security cameras down there?" Glenewinkel asked, mentioning the recent discovery of graffiti at Mission San Juan in San Antonio.

Planning Director Don Smith said no decision had been made regarding security cameras in the park.

Earlier during her presentation, Filip showed the text to be used on three signs that will be placed at entrances to the park from Nolte Street, Travis Street and Court/Guadalupe Street: "New tree and shrub plantings support habitat and large rocks along the creek prevent erosion. Do not throw rocks into creek. Leave all wildlife and vegetation undisturbed including fish and minnows. No glass containers. Dispose of all trash properly. Be

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**Mary Jo Filip,  
Main Street director**

considerate of other park users and private property. No swimming, wading, skateboarding or rollerblading. Alcohol consumption by permit only. Noise ordinance in effect each evening at 10 p.m. Bicycle-users yield to pedestrians. Walnut Springs Park is open from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 6 a.m. to midnight Friday-Sunday."

Filip indicated that the signs might also show the park to be in a gang/drug/weapons-free zone. She said city staff has been working on an ordinance to designate several areas in the city as gang/drug/weapons-free zones.

"People are resistant to reading paragraphs," said Pat Gilbertson, a member of the parks board. She said the signs might be more effective if each rule was presented as an individual line.

Filip also showed the proposed

text for a "large educational sign" describing flora and fauna along the creek: "Lizards, turtles, salamanders, frogs and toads live along the creek as do aggressive water snakes and poisonous coral snakes. Fish include minnows, sunfish, catfish and darters as well as largemouth bass, yellow bullhead and shiners. ... Poison ivy and poison oak also grow along the creek."

Joe Patterson, chairman of the parks board, suggested that the sign should also include pictures of the poisonous snakes and poisonous plants.

Filip also showed a sign similar to the tall, tower-like stone monument sign to be erected at the parking lot on Court Street west of the Guadalupe County Administration Building. Lettering on the sign will be "WALNUT SPRINGS PARK, City of Seguin."

Plans call for installing seven metal benches in the park, and Filip showed illustrations of two types of benches, one with arms and one without. She said donors who pay for benches will have their names inscribed on metal plaques affixed to the benches.

Filip said another joint meeting of the two groups will be held as the contractor and the city put finishing touches on the park.